

Appl. No. 10/730,592
Atty. Docket No. CM2574C
Amdt. dated 01/12/2005
Reply to Office Action of 10/12/2004
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable, multilayer structure, comprising at least a moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable first layer and at least a moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable second layer, said second layer comprising: a thermoplastic polymer or mixture of polymers selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, poly-ether-amides block copolymers, polyethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, polyethylene oxide and its copolymers, poly lactide and copolymers, polyamides, polyesters, copolyesters, polyester block copolymers, sulfonated polyesters, ~~poly-ether-ester block copolymers~~, poly-ether-ester-amide block copolymers, ~~polyacrylates~~, polyacrylic acids and derivatives, ionomers, polyethylene-vinyl acetate with a vinyl acetate content of at least 28 weight %, polyvinyl alcohol and its copolymers, polyvinyl ethers and their copolymers, poly-2-ethyl-oxazoline and derivatives, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and its copolymers, thermoplastic cellulose derivatives, and mixtures thereof, wherein said second layer further comprises a suitable compatible hydrophilic plasticiser or blend of hydrophilic plasticisers selected from the group consisting of acids, esters, amides, alcohols, polyalcohols, or mixtures thereof, characterised in that said first layer has a water absorption lower than the water absorption of said second layer, said water absorptions both measured according to the test method ASTM D 570-81.

2. (Original) A moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable multilayer structure, according to claim 1 characterised in that said moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable first layer comprises a thermoplastic polymer or mixture of polymers selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, poly-ether-amides block copolymers, polyethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, polyethylene oxide and its copolymers, poly lactide and copolymers, polyamides, polyesters, copolyesters, polyester block copolymers, sulfonated polyesters, poly-ether-ester block copolymers, poly-ether-ester-amide block copolymers, polyacrylates, polyacrylic acids and derivatives, ionomers, polyethylene-vinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol and its copolymers, polyvinyl ethers and their copolymers, poly-2-ethyl-oxazoline and derivatives, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and its copolymers, thermoplastic cellulose derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

3. (Original) A moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable multilayer structure, according to claim 2 wherein said moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable first layer further

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comprises a suitable compatible hydrophilic plasticiser or blend of hydrophilic plasticisers selected from the group consisting of acids, esters, amides, alcohols, polyalcohols, or mixtures thereof, characterised in that said suitable compatible hydrophilic plasticiser or said blend of hydrophilic plasticisers are in an amount not more than 50% by weight.

4. (Original) A moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable multilayer structure according to claim 1 wherein said first layer has a water absorption according to ASTM D 570- 81 of less than 10%, and said second layer has a water absorption according to ASTM D 570-81 of at least 30%.

5. (Original) A multilayer structure according to claim 1, wherein said structure comprises a water vapour transmission rate (WVTR) of at least 500 g/m²·24h.

6. (Original) A moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable article wherein said article comprises a multilayer structure according to claim 1, wherein said first layer constitutes the outermost layer of said structure in said article.

7. (Original) A moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable article according to claim 6 wherein said article is a shape-formed, three dimensional article.

8. (Original) A moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable article according to claim 6 wherein said article is made of said multilayer structure and wherein said at least first layer of said multilayer structure constitutes the external layer of said article.

9. (Original) A moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable article according to claim 8, wherein said article is a hand covering article.

10. (Original) A moisture vapour permeable, liquid impermeable article according to claim 9, wherein said article is a glove.

11. (Original) A glove according to claim 10 wherein the total thickness of said multilayer structure is from about 10 to about 1000 micrometers.

12. (Original) A glove according to claim 11 wherein the thickness of said at least first layer of said multilayer structure is less than about 10% of said total thickness.

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13. (Original) A glove according to claim 12 having a water vapour transmission rate (WVTR) of at least 500 g/m²·24h.